

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-04 IOE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 DHA-02 ORM-02 OES-06 AID-05 OIC-02 L-03 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9654

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3327

DEPT PASS HEW FOR ASST SECTY OF HEALTH, DR. COOPER

DEPT ALSO PASS HEW/OIH EHRLICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO

SUBJECT: 29TH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, MAY 3-22, 1976

SUMMARY: IN PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY (WHA) OF WHO, MISSION HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH WHO DG MAHLER AND SECRETARIAT AS WELL AS WITH MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS IN GENEVA ON VARIOUS PROGRAM, BUDGET AND POLITICAL SUBJECTS THAT ARE PART OF WHA AGENDA OR ARE LIKELY TO COME UP FOR DISCUSSION. LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE ABOVE SOURCES ON THESE SUBJECTS IS PROVIDED BELOW, ALONG WITH CITING OF EARLIER CABLE REFERENCES WHERE APPROPRIATE. END SUMMARY.

1. MIDDLE EAST QUESTION: MAHLER ON APRIL 26 TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A 4-DAY VISIT TO SYRIA AND REMAINS ENCOURAGED BY THE SCENARIO, STILL UNFOLDING, AS FIRST REPORTED IN CONFIDENTIAL

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GENEVA 1833. FEWER ARAB BLOC DELEGATIONS HAVE APPROACH-

ED MAHLER THIS YEAR THAN DID LAST YEAR, WHICH HE ALSO BELIEVES IS A GOOD SIGN. MAHLER MET ON APRIL 27 WITH SOME ASIAN AND AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE WHO RAISED QUESTION OF HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT REPORT-EDLY MAHLER WAS SATISFIED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE EXCHANGE. MAIN REASON MAHLER REMAINS ENCOURAGED IS THAT BY TIME WHA OPENS EACH MEMBER OF THE 3-MAN SPECIAL COMMITTEE, HEADED BY WONE OF SENEGAL, WILL HAVE VISITED ISRAEL SEPARATELY TO SURVEY HEALTH CONDITIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. INDONESIAN DOCTOR FIRST SCHEDULED TO VISIT ISRAEL THIS COMING WEEKEND HAS JUST UNDERGONE EMERGENCY KIDNEY SURGERY, BUT GOI AGREED TO EXTEND SIMILAR INVITATION TO A SUB-STITUTE INDONESIAN HEALTH OFFICIAL WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE IN ISRAEL ON APRIL 29. THOUGH HE WILL NOT BE ON INDONESIAN DELEGATION TO WHA, HE WILL PARTICI-PATE IN SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 5 AND PARTI-CIPATE IN DRAFTING REPORT TO WHA.

2. IARC DIRECTORSHIP: 15TH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER OPENS IN LYON APRIL 29. IARC DIRECTOR HIGGINSON INFORMED MISSION THAT, IF THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATES FOR THE DIRECTORSHIP OF IARC, HE HAS NOT HEARD ABOUT THEM, AND HE REMAINS FAIRLY CONFIDENT HE WILL BE REAPPOINTED AS DIRECTOR FOR ANOTHER TERM. CONSENSUS AMONG AUSTRALIAN, FRG, CANADIAN, UK AND JAPANESE MISSION, IS THAT HIGGINSON WILL CONTINUE.

3. EXECUTIVE BOARD: THERE APPEAR TO BE TWELVE MEMBER STATES SEEKING WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERSHIP: UK, GREECE, TURKEY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, QATAR, HONDURAS, CUBA, PERU, JAMAICA, PHILIPPINES, PAKISTAN AND JAPAN. WE HEAR JAPAN WILL SEEK RE-ELECTION FOR FULL 3-YEAR TERM. TUNISIA WITHDREW IN FAVOR OF QATAR. JAMAICAN CANDIDACY IS STILL JUST A RUMOR. TURKEY AND GREECE STILL COMPETING HERE FOR EC-9 SUPPORT, BUT WE UNDER-STAND TURKEY IS CONSIDERING WITHDRAWING IF (1) GREECE WILL PLEDGE, IN WRITING, TO SUPPORT TURKIST CANDIDACY
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THREE YEARS HENCE; AND (2 EC-9 AND GREECE WILL SUPPORT TURKIST CANDIDATURE FOR ONE OF THE FIVE WHA VICE PRESIDENCIES. EC-9 MEETING APRIL 30 FOR FOURTH TIME ON THIS QUESTION, AND MAY BE PRESSING TURKEY TO ACCEPT ORAL RATHER THAN WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM GREECE RE SUPPORT THREE YEARS HENCE.

4. BUDGETARY MATTERS: MAHLER AND SECRETARIAT EXPECT

LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ON THE G-LEVEL SALARY SETTLEMENT AND ON WAY WHO PLANS TO MEET INCREASES. (GENEVA 3168 AND 3216). GENEVA GROUP MEETS MAY 3 TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS. AS HE IS APPREHENSIVE THAT UN MAY TRY TO DEFER PAYMENT OF INCREASES BEYOND JUNE, ADG FURTH HOPES US AND OTHERS WILL SUPPORT A RESOLUTION THAT NO INCREASES IN SALARIES SHOULD BE MADE BY WHO UNTIL THE UN ITSELF BEGINS SUCH PAYMENTS. MAHLER SAYS HE IS DETERMINED TO ELIMINATE SOME 34 POSTS FROM WHO HEADQUARTERS AND TO TRANSFER THE SAVINGS OF APPROXIMATELY \$50,000 PER POST TO THE REGIONS FOR USE IN PROGRAMS AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL. MAHLER SAYS HE EXPECTS IN THIS WAY TO TRANSFER SOME \$3 MILLION TO THE REGIONS IN 1978-79. OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO KEEP BUDGET INCREASES TO MINIMUM, WHILE AT SAME TIME CARRYING OUT INTENT OF WHA RESOLUTION 28.76. BUDGET FOR CY 1977 REFLECTS OVERALL 7.15 PERCENT INCREASE OVER CY 1976.

5. RECRUITMENT: 57TH EXECUTIVE BOARD ASKED MAHLER (RESOLUTION EB 57.52) TO RECOGNIZE THE IMBALANCE EXISTING IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF, PARTICULARLY BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDED TO MAHLER THAT HE DEFER ACTION ON THIS RESOLUTION UNTIL THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS IN JANUARY 1977, BUT MAHLER INSISTED UPON REPORT BEING READY FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE WHA. WHILE REPORT NOT YET PREPARED, WE UNDERSTAND STATISTICS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (A) WHO HEAD-QUARTERS, GENEVA (PROFESSIONAL STAFF): AMERICANS, 1 UNGRADED POST, ADG FURTH, 3 D-2, 3 P-6 (D-1), 27 P-5, 12 P-4, 6 P-3, AND 15 P-2, P-1. (B) THERE IS A TOTAL OF 432 POSTS IN GENEVA. THUS AMERICANS OCCUPY 66

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(OR 15 PERCENT) OF WHO HEADQUARTERS POSITIONS. BY COMPARISON US FILLS 224 (OR 11 PERCENT) OF WHO PROFESSIONAL POSTS WORLDWIDE. COMMENT: SINCE THE ENTIRE RECRUITMENT SUBJECT IS NOT ONLY COMPLEX BUT POLITICAL, IT COULD ERUPT AT THE ASSEMBLY, NOTWITHSTANDING DR. MAHLER'S EFFORTS TO STAVE IT OFF BY BEING READY WITH A DRAFT REPORT FOR EB DISCUSSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ASSEMBLY. IN ANY EVENT, WE CAN BE ASSURED THE WHO REPORT WILL CONTAIN NO SOLUTIONS TO THE SUBJECT, BUT WILL MERELY HIGHLIGHT THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE PROBLEMS.

6. PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE:WHO WILL CONVENE A 1-1 1/2 WEEKS PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE IN THE USSR IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1978, PROBABLY IN

TASHKENT (GENEVA 2969). THE USSR HAS PLEDGED \$900,000-
\$1,000,000 TO COVER CONFERENCE COSTS. THIS WILL BE
THE FIRST MAJOR WHO CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN THE USSR.
A THOUSAND OR MORE HEALTH EXPERTS ARE EXPECTED TO
PARTICIPATE. WE UNDERSTAND UNICEF HAS APPROACHED
WHO WITH INTEREST IN CO-SPONSORING CONFERENCE, AND
THAT THIS WILL BE INTRODUCED AT THE WHA. WE FURTHER
UNDERSTAND SOVIET DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH VENEDICTOV
HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY WHO AND AGREES TO UNICEF
CO-SPONSORSHIP.DALE

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